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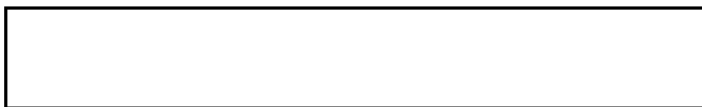
5 April 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Possible Chinese Reactions to the OXCART Program

1. What might the Chinese do with respect to the deployment of OXCART to Okinawa and its successful use over China (Chinese reactions to a shootdown are discussed in the attached SNIE 10-2-66)?
2. They might send sabotage teams against the aircraft at Kadena.
3. They might raise a great public fuss over the deployment itself, drawing on the vehicle's identification as a military nuclear-capable aircraft and directing their pressures against Japan. They might even, contrary to our estimate in SNIE 10-2-66, do the same upon the occasion of a successful penetration.
  - a. They could in this fashion produce considerable trouble in Japan, where fears about atomic war can be readily stimulated. Nevertheless, we believe that Sato could probably deal with the situation.

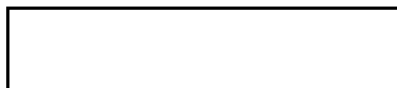
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b. Chinese publicity to an overflight would provoke statements from the USSR boasting of the impregnability of Soviet defenses and warning the US against any intrusions there. The USSR would also step up its defenses against the aircraft.

4. The Chinese might make a major military response, which could range from large ground deployments into North Vietnam to direct intervention in the war or attacks on other neighboring countries.

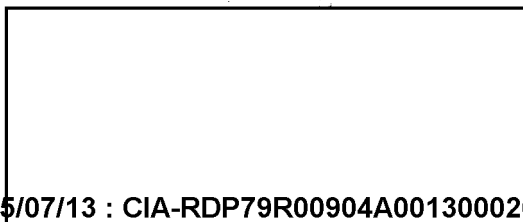
a. These possibilities seem to us inappropriate for the Chinese and wildly improbable. They become conceivable only if we construct a context of simultaneous US moves, seen by China as gravely threatening, in which the OXCART operation appears to Peiping as US target collection just prior to hostilities.



SHERMAN KENT  
Director  
National Estimates

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3	<i>for info</i>		
4			
5	<i>Exec. Reg.</i>	12 APR 1966	<i>WJ</i>
6	<i>ONE/Kent</i>		
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